

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-24 and 27-29 are pending in this application. Claims 20, 21, 25, and 26 are canceled by the presently response without prejudice.

Claims 20-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 20, 22, 25, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,537,605 to Teece. Claims 24 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Teece in view of U.S. patent 5,745,837 to Fuhrmann.¹ Claims 21, 23, 26, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Teece in view of U.S. patent 5,371,553 to Kawamura et al. (herein "Kawamura").

Addressing first the rejection of claims 20-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

The above-note claims are amended by the present response to clarify the language noted as unclear. The claim amendments are believed to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 20, 22, 25, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Teece, the further rejection of claims 24 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Teece in view of Fuhrmann, and the further rejection of claims 21, 23, 26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Teece in view of Kawamura, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

The claims are directed to a communication method and communication system that can provide, to a network, information indicating a method for controlling independently

¹ The statement for the rejection in prenumbered 6 in the Office Action indicates U.S. patent 5,371,553, but that patent number does not correspond to the Fuhrman patent. If the rejection is not based on Teece in view of Fuhrman clarification is requested.

information apparatuses connected to the network and information to be provided to other information apparatuses on the network, respectively. The apparatuses on the network each acquire information of the other apparatuses on the network as needed and control them to provide a necessary service to a user.

Each of currently pending independent claims 22, 24, 27, and 29 acquire “function and information index information”. As specifically required in independent claim 22, the communication method operates for:

acquiring function and information index information associated with processes which are executable on each of the information apparatuses connected to a network to transmit information among them, through the network, the information index information being stored in each of the plurality of information apparatuses through the network and relating to data held in the information apparatuses, and the each of the information apparatuses informing other of the information apparatuses of a method by which the apparatus is controlled[.]

Similar limitations are set forth in independent claims 24, 27, and 29. The above-noted features are believed to clearly distinguish over Teece.

Teece is directed to an arrangement that enables one or more controllable pieces of equipment to be controlled by a control unit. Teece specifically discloses at column 6, line 29 et seq. a structure shown in Figure 3, and states “[a]lso connected to the bus 46 is a hardware interface 58 which produces signals for controlling the hardware components (not shown) of the controllable unit”. Teece thereby discloses transferring a method of controlling a controllable unit to a control unit, but does not describe a hardware component to be controlled according to the method. Teece further does not describe or suggest how information to be processed by the hardware component is controlled and sent to a necessary apparatus.

In contrast to Teece, in the claims as currently written, both function index information and information index information are presented as a whole, and a user can associate the function index information with information index information as needed.

The claimed invention presents not only control information of a controllable unit such as in Teece, but additionally presents information to be processed by a hardware component of a controllable unit to a user as index information so that a user can associate the function index information with the information index information as needed. Such an association permits setting a connection to necessary parts in a network. Therefore, the user can receive desired information at desired locations.

Providing such function and information index information as in the claimed features is believed to clearly distinguish over Teece.

In such ways, the claims as currently written are believed to distinguish over Teece.

Moreover, no teachings of Fuhrman or Kawamura can overcome the above-noted deficiencies in Teece.

Fuhrman merely discloses a method of using an ATM on a CATV network but does not teach any of the features noted above.

Kawamura discloses informing a monitor apparatus 21 of information indicating information capable of being provided from one apparatus to another apparatus, see for example Kawamura at column 5, lines 36-44 stating "a control menu displaying apparatus for an audio-visual system, which includes,...for displaying a menu of programs supplied from the audio-visual units on the monitor unit...". However, Kawamura also does not teach or suggest providing control information of other apparatuses. Thus, Kawamura cannot overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Teece with respect to Teece not disclosing or suggesting that function index information is associated with information index information.

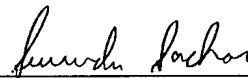
In such ways, the further rejections based on Teece in view of Furhmann and Teece in view of Kawamura are also traversed by the present response.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit each of the claims as currently written is allowable over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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